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Headquarters
Departments of the Army and the Air Force
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*Air Force Regulation 161-73

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Medical Services

Veterinary Laboratory Service

Summary. This regulation on veterinary laboratory service has been revised. It defines the mission of veterinary laboratory service. This revision updates laboratory functions and functions of the veterinary laboratory consultant.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Army and the Air Force. It does not apply to the National Guard and Reserve of these Services.

Impact on New Manning System. This regulation does not contain information that affects the New Manning System.

Internal Control Systems. This regulation is subject to the requirements of AR 11-2. It contains internal control provisions but does not contain checklists for conducting internal control reviews. These checklists are being developed and will be published at a later date.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited without prior approval from HQDA (DASG-VCP), 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3258. Air Force users must obtain prior approval from HQ, USAF/SGPA, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20332-6188.

Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General, Headquarters, Department of Army (HQDA). Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of The Surgeon General, HQDA. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) or a related form directly to HQDA (DASG-VCP), 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3258.

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1. Purpose. This regulation defines the responsibilities and functions of the veterinary laboratory service relative to the—

a. Testing of subsistence, nonprescription drugs, and cosmetics.

b. Laboratory diagnosis of communicable and zoonotic diseases and conditions of military interest.

c. Support of veterinary services.

d. Management of laboratory animal resources.

2. References
Required and related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix A.

3. Explanation of abbreviations
Abbreviations used in this regulation are explained in the glossary.

4. Responsibilities

a. Introduction. Responsibilities of the Army Veterinary Laboratory Services are in accordance with policies contained in AR 30-12/DLAR 4155.3/NAVSUPINST 4355.2/AFR 74-5/MCO 10110.21; AR 40-1; AR 40-4; AR 40-441/AFR 161-40; AR 40-657/NAVSUPINST 4355.40/AFR 161-32/MCO 10110.31; AR 40-905/SECNAVINST 6401.1/AFR 163-5; and AR 70-18/SECNAVINST 3900.38/AFR 169-2/DARPAINST 18/DAINST 3216.18/USUHINST 3203.

b. The Surgeon General (TSG), Department of the Army (DA). The Surgeon General will—

(1) Develop uniform, efficient procedures for the veterinary laboratory service.

(2) Ensure that veterinary/medical personnel use the procedures prescribed in this regulation.

(3) Coordinate (1) and (2) above with the Surgeons General, Department of the Air Force (DAF) and Department of the Navy (DN) or designated representatives.

c. Major Army command (MACOM) and Air Force

*This regulation supersedes AR 40-920/AFR 163-9, 7 July 1977.

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major command (MAJCOM) commanders. These commanders with assigned veterinary/medical personnel will ensure that the policies and requirements of this regulation are met.

d. Commanders of Army Health Services Command (HSC) regional veterinary laboratories (RVLs) and major oversea veterinary medical laboratories. These commanders will—

(1) Provide complete clinical support for animals presented to animal disease prevention and control (ADPAC) facilities, where authorized.

(2) Supervise the procurement, care, housing, feeding, breeding, and management of all animals used by the laboratories.

(3) Provide technical advise to the MACOM veterinarian or MAJCOM environmental health officer (EHO) for the—

(*a*) Formulation of policies related to the testing phase of the veterinary/medical food inspection service.

(*b*) Prevention and control of communicable diseases of animals and zoonotic diseases and conditions.

(*c*) Development of command zoonotic disease control programs.

(4) Advise the MACOM or MAJCOM of sanitary defects or epizootics that may be deteced through the laboratory examination of materials submitted from the field on a routine basis.

e. Commander, Veterinary Pathology Division, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). The Commander will provide diagnostic and consultation services on animal pathological specimens submitted according to AR 40-31/AFR 160-55.

f. Commander, Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC). The Commander will provide administrative, logistical, and budgetary support to the Chief, Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, BAMC, as the consultant to the Assistant Surgeon General for Veterinary Services, Office of TSG (OTSG), DA.

g. Chief, Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, BAMC. The Chief will—

(1) Serve as consultant to the Assistant Surgeon General for Veterinary Services, OTSG, HQDA, on all matters pertaining to the veterinary laboratory service.

(2) Be responsible for the technical training of all veterinary laboratory officers and key civilian technical personnel at the various HSC and major oversea veterinary laboratories.

(3) Conduct the annual professional Post Graduate Short Course training program for all veterinary laboratory officers.

(4) Be responsible for the standardization of operations and program of the veterinary laboratory services of the various HSC and major oversea command veterinary laboratories.

(5) Conduct annual inspection of each veterinary laboratory of each MACOM.

(6) Publish technical data letters, standing operating procedures, and laboratory administrative procedures.

(7) Conduct proficiency surveys and user's other media as necessary to assure uniformity of veterinary laboratory service.

(8) Maintain a control laboratory for the Armed Forces in regard to all veterinary laboratory matters.

(9) Maintain technical liaison with laboratory experts throughout the world.

(10) Conduct collaborative technical studies among the veterinary laboratory services of the various medical laboratories as well as other governmental, institutional, and regulatory agency laboratories.

h. Veterinary/medical personnel. These individuals will—

(1) Comply with the guidance contained in this regulation for the collection and submission of samples.

(2) Coordinate the collection and submission of samples with the servicing laboratory.

5. Official laboratories

Official laboratories furnishing laboratory services are as follows:

a. Regional veterinary laboratories at designated medical facilities of the HSC and oversea Army medical facilities.

b. Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6200.

c. Veterinary Pathology Division, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, WASH, DC 20306-6000.

d. United States Public Health Service (USPHS) laboratories and those State, county, city, and municipal laboratories approved by the USPHS for the wholesomeness testing of fresh dairy products. Approved laboratories are listed in the current edition of the USPHS publication, "Milk Laboratories Approved by Federal and State Agencies."

e. Other laboratories as individually authorized by TSG, DA, and DAF according to the provisions of paragraph 7.

6. Laboratory functions

Veterinary laboratory services of the various HSC and major oversea medical laboratories includes the following functions:

a. Conducting microbiological, chemical, toxicological, and radiological analysis of subsistence, nonprescription drugs and cosmetics to enable submitting inspectors to determine its—

(1) Fitness for consumption, issue or resale.

(2) Conformance with contractual requirements.

b. Conducting diagnostic laboratory and consultant services in the fields of veterinary microbiology, and

clinical and anatomical pathology. Services are necessary for the diagnosis, control, and treatment of diseases occurring among publicly-owned and privately-owned animals. These diseases may adversely affect the military community and the contiguous civilian population through transmission to man or other animals. When authorized, these laboratories conduct epidemiological and serological surveys and research of such diseases.

c. Supervising the procurement, care, housing, feeding, breeding, and management of all animals used by the laboratory. The laboratories conduct investigations on diseases that may affect these animals.

d. Conducting annual technical inspections and proficiency surveys of the dairy testing facilities of military installation laboratories which are authorized under the provisions of paragraph 7 to perform analysis of fresh dairy foods.

e. Training personnel in veterinary laboratory procedures.

f. Maintaining liaison with various laboratories for the purpose of obtaining and disseminating technical information on veterinary problems peculiar to the area. This includes commercial, Federal, State, city, country, education institutions or laboratories of foreign or host countries. Technical data obtained is for information purposes only. In the analyses of subsistence for contract compliance, the veterinary laboratory must use only those procedures designated in contractual documents. The methods of analyses obtained from other sources that are determined superior to those designated in contractual documents will be submitted to the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, BAMC for review and recommendations.

7. Use of installation laboratories

a. Authorization. Laboratory facilities located at US military installations may be used for the testing of fresh dairy foods when authorized by the Commanding General, HSC, or MACOM surgeon or MAJCOM surgeon. The concerned installation will authorize for testing and will coordinate with the installation surgeon before forwarding to the appropriate MACOM or MAJCOM Commander. These authorized laboratories may be used for the quality and sanitary control of fresh dairy food delivered to installations which will be based on the recommendations of the officers performing surveys prescribed by paragraph 4*g*. The scope of the authorizations will be stated. For example, state whether the testing is for unofficial testing for all requirements instead of what is to be performed in official laboratories.

b. Supervision. For purposes of making these tests, authorized installation laboratories will be under the technical supervision of the chief of the veterinary laboratory service of the applicable official laboratory. This supervision will consist of, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) An annual technical inspection of each installation laboratory by the veterinary laboratory officer or his or her representative from the official control laboratory.

(2) Proficiency surveys.

(3) Training of personnel.

8. Transmission and collection of samples

The transmission and collection of samples will be accomplished in accordance with the following:

a. Introduction. US Army veterinary and USAF environmental health personnel will collect and submit samples and specimens according to the instructions contained in TM 8-340/NAVMED P-5083/AFM 16-28/VA IB 11-13, TB MED 262/AFR 163-7, TB MED 264/NAV SUP PUB 515R/MCO 10110.15, and HSC Pamphlet 40-8. Exceptions are if the above instructions conflict with those found in specifications, contract, or other directives issued by procurement agencies. If conflicts exist, use the instructions issued by procurement agencies. Additionally, veterinary and environmental health personnel will comply with the administrative instructions published by the official laboratory as long as the instructions do not conflict with the above. Samples will be submitted according to the following:

(1) When the submitting installation in one HSC region is located closer to an HSC laboratory of a contiguous HSC region, arrangement will be made by Veterinary Directorate, HSC so that laboratory testing can be accomplished by the most expeditious and economical means. These arrangements will be coordinated with the veterinary laboratory consultant.

(2) Samples of fresh dairy foods may be sent to those laboratories authorized in paragraphs 5 and 7 to perform such analyses.

b. Sample collection. Samples will be collected and submitted as frequently as necessary to assure that proper laboratory support and control agrees with the mission of the Army veterinary service and the Air Force environmental health service. Samples will be tested unless—

(1) Requests for unusual analyses, determination, or the testing of excessive numbers of samples are made. Requests may be denied by the receiving laboratory after consultating with the MACOM veterinarian or MAJCOM EHO.

(2) The investigation reveals that requests are impractical, nonessential, or excessive in number of samples submitted. The commanding officer of the receiving laboratory, at his or her discretion, may apply reduced frequency testing schedules for the samples submitted or delete requests in their entirety after consultation with the MACOM veterinarian or MAJCOM EHO. When the above actions are taken, the com-

mander of the receiving laboratory will notify the submitting installation.

(3) The samples cannot be tested due to a lack of equipment or other technical reasons. The receiving laboratory may forward or direct referral of those samples to a laboratory that is capable of performing the required testing.

c. Laboratory request forms. The following laboratory request forms will be used by the submitting installation when submitting the following classes of specimens or samples:

(1) *Subsistence samples.* DD Form 1222 (Request for and Results of Tests).

(2) *Clinical specimens.* Applicable SFs (Standard Forms) 545 through 557 (Chemistry I, Chemistry II, Chemistry III (Urine), Hematology, Urinalysis, Serology, Parasitology, Microbiology I, Microbiology II, Spinal Fluid, Immunohematology, and Miscellaneous.)

(3) *Tissues for histopathology.* SF 515 (Medical Record—Tissue Examination).

(4) *Rabies specimens.* HSC Form 218R-VC (Request For and Report of Laboratory Test for Rabies) or local oversea command form.

9. Veterinary laboratory service communication

Communication with the veterinary laboratory service may be accomplished in the following manner:

a. When the urgency of the situation dictates, direct communication (correspondence, telephone, or message) is authorized as follows:

(1) Between authorized laboratory personnel and field personnel on matters pertaining to sample submission, laboratory request forms, additional samples, and clinical histories.

(2) Between the veterinary laboratory officers and the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, BAMC, on all matters pertaining to technical subjects.

b. Information copies of the correspondence in *a*(1) and (2) above will be sent to the HSC veterinarian, oversea MACOM veterinarian, or Air Force MAJCOM EHO concerned.

c. Except as stated in *a* and *b* above, all other correspondence will be routed through proper channels.

d. Veterinary laboratory personnel investigating a serious statement which covers all facts of a case will submit all correspondence through proper channels to HQDA (DASG-VCP), 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3258 or HQ, USAF/SGPA, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-6188. An information copy of the serious statement will also be sent to the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Services, BAMC. In addition, portions of the specimens examined will be sent to BAMC for confirmation of diagnosis.

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Appendix A
References

Section I
Required Publications

AR 40-31/AFR 160-55	The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and Armed Forces Histopathology Centers. (Cited in para 4*e*.)
TB MED 262/ AFR 163-7	Veterinary Food Inspection Procedures for the Inspection of Milk and Milk Products in Bulk Dispenser Containers. (Cited in para 8*a*.)
TB MED 264/ NAVSUP PUB 515R/ MCO 10110.15	Veterinary Food Inspection Procedures for Sampling and Examining Ground Beef Requiring Fat Analysis. (Cited in para 8*a*.)
TM 8-340/ NAVMED P-5083/ AFM 160-28/ VA IB 11-13	Methods of Preparing Pathologic Specimens for Storage and Shipment. (Cited in para 8*a*.)
HSC Pamphlet 40-8	Compendium of Tests Available in HSC Clinical & Veterinary Laboratories. (Cited in para 8*a*.) (Copies may be obtained from Commander, Health Services Command, ATTN: HSAG-P, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6000.)
USPHS unnumbered publication	Milk Laboratories Approved by Federal and State Agencies. (Cited in para 5*d*.)

Section II
Related Publications

AR 30-12/ DLAR 4155.3/ NAVSUPINST 4355.2/ AFR 74-5/ MCO 10110.21	Inspection of Subsistence Supplies and Services.
AR 40-1	Composition, Mission, and Functions of the Army Medical Department.
AR 40-4	Army Medical Department Facilities/Activities.
AR 40-441/ BUMEDINST 6200.1/ AFR 161-40	Joint Utilization of Certain Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Facilities.
AR 40-657/ NAVSUPINST 4355.40/ AFR 161-32/ MCO 10110.31	Veterinary/Medical Food Inspection.
AR 40-905/ SECNAVINST 6401.1/ AFR 163-5	Veterinary Health Services.
AR 70-18/ SECNAVINST 3900.38/ AFR 169-2/ DARPAINST 18/ DNAINST 3216.18/ USUHINST 3203	The Use of Animals in DOD Programs

Section III
Referenced Forms

DD Form 1222	Request for Results of Tests
HSC Form 218R-VC	Request for and Report of Laboratory Test for Rabies
SF 515	Medical Record—Tissue Examination
SF 545	Laboratory Report Display
SF 546	Chemistry I
SF 547	Chemistry II
SF 548	Chemistry III (Urine)
SF 549	Hematology
SF 550	Urinalysis
SF 551	Serology
SF 552	Parasitology
SF 553	Microbiology I
SF 554	Microbiology II
SF 555	Spinal Fluid
SF 556	Immunohematology
SF 557	Miscellaneous

Glossary
Abbreviations

ADPAC
animal disease prevention and control facility

AFB
Air Force base

AFIP
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

BAMC
Brooke Army Medical Center

DA
Department of the Army

DAF
Department of the Air Force

DN
Department of the Navy

HQDA
Headquarters, Department of the Army

HSC
Health Services Command

MACOM
major Army command

MAJCOM
major command (Air Force)

RVL
regional veterinary laboratory

TSG
The Surgeon General

USAF
US Air Force

USPHS
United States Public Health Service

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